The Impact of Religion on the Military Mission

Chaplain Ira Houck

This Presentation is

UNCLASSIFIED

Administrative

- Safety Requirements: None
- Risk Assessment Level: Low
- Environmental Considerations: None

Purpose

Provide information about religious area assessments relevant to the needs of the Campaign-Quality Army Chaplaincy with a Joint and Expeditionary Mindset

Outline

- Part One, defines the terms: “world view, religion and culture”
- Parts Two and Three will deal more specifically with doctrinal principles of religious area assessments and will involve us in a practica

Objective

- Task: Provide a framework to understand a Worldview pertinent to the military mission
- Conditions: Given a power point presentation, class room setting
- Standard: Students will identify key elements of a World View and RAA

Considerations

"Regional challenges will often involve an adversary whose system of beliefs is fundamentally different to include core beliefs such as right and wrong, the value of human life, and the concept of victory and defeat.

What appears to be irrational or fanatical to US forces may be completely rational to multinational partners or opponents."

JP 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations,* 2001, "The Strategic Concept"

Considerations

We define contextualization as meaningful and appropriate cross-cultural transmission of a message which is faithful to its original intent and sensitive to culture

The Estimate Process

Estimate is an analysis of a situation, development, or trend that identifies its major elements, interprets the significance, and appraises the future possibilities and the prospective results of the various actions that might be taken.

JP 3-0, *Doctrine for Joint Operations,* 2001, "The Strategic Concept"

Considerations

Recognize our own bias and try to avoid imperialistic attitudes that isolate people and negatively impact the mission

Acknowledged Limitations

- Perspective--this presentation draws upon academic and open sources of information
- Utilizes resources from secondary (i.e. English) rather than primary language texts
- The perspective is partial to Western philosophical views
- Culture and religion emerge from a refined, educated perspective, instead of a view that is passionate and actual experience based

True or False Pre-test

___ There is a tendency for us to believe that our own world view is the “correct” perception.

___ What appears to be an accurate and objective perception of a person, a custom, an idea, is sometimes “jaded” or “stilted” in the view of someone from another culture.

True or False Pretest

___ Religious belief influences how a person perceives the world around him/her and the world around him/her influences religious belief.

___ Perception influences how a person responds to stimulus in the world around him/her.

Perception has legitimacy.

Define Legitimacy

- Legitimacy is crucial to sustain a military action

- Since tactical actions may create strategic effects, the commander must consider the *perceived legitimacy* of such actions and their impact on the objectives

FM 3-13 Information Operations

Define Legitimacy

- Legitimacy develops and maintains the will necessary to achieve strategic aims
- Legitimacy is based on the legality, morality, and rightness of the actions undertaken as well as the will of a people to support the actions
- Legitimacy also affects the willingness of other nations to support a cause

FM 3-13 Information Operations

What is Culture ?

Define Culture

Culture is the totality of socially-transmitted behavioral patterns, acts, beliefs, institutions and all other products of human work or thought that are characteristic of a community

Dr. Pauletta Otis

Pew Foundation

Summarized Definition

Culture--What is it?

- That which guides people in their thinking, acting and feeling
- Language, values, customary behaviors
- Ideas, beliefs and patterns of thinking
- Attributes that describe social characteristics of a people

Necessity for Understanding

- It leads to better area analysis
- By understanding a culture, its origins and history we can better predict attitudes and reactions

Necessity for Understanding

- Culture is like a lens
- Read meaning into events through cultural lenses
- Cultural history can be a powerful tool as well as a powerful set of blinders

"We never do a good job of cultural intelligence, of understanding what makes people tick, what their structure is, where authority lies, what is different about their values and their way of doing business. Cultural bias limits our ability to understand what is going on around us and often prevents commanders from making informed decisions."

LTC Douglas Scollard, "People of Whom We Know Nothing: When Doctrine Isn't Enough," Military Review July-August 1997.

Culture

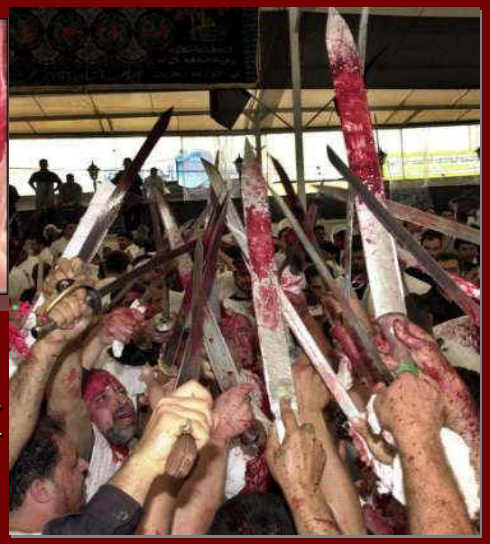
Understanding a culture permits a more rapid and decisive military effort, particularly if culture is identified as the enemy's Center of Gravity

Culture

- An accurate identification of an adversaries Critical Vulnerabilities provides access to his Center of Gravity, resulting in a more decisive military campaign
- Having some understanding of a culture is a decisive force multiplier when the enemy’s culture is the Center of Gravity

Culture

Failing to improve current cultural understanding will arguably prove to be a critical vulnerability for U.S. forces



Cultural Framework

Ashura

- For **Sunni Muslims** Ashura is a day of fasting since the days of the early Muslim community
- It marks two historical events: the day Nuh (Noah) left the Ark, and the day that Musa (Moses) was saved from the Egyptians by Allah

Cultural Framework *Continued*:

- How do people understand and deal with suffering situations?
- Theodicy

Cultural Framework

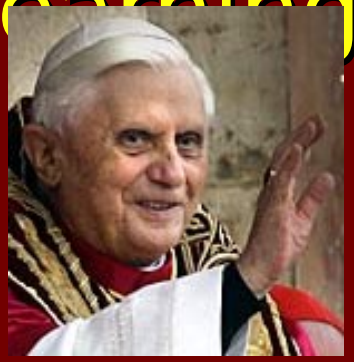
Continued:

Most leaders in the Army would agree that positively sensitizing soldiers to cultural phenomena is urgent and crucial to mission success

True or False

___ Attitude is a key factor in learning about other cultures and leads to cross cultural understanding.

___ Attitudinal factors are clear predictors of success in learning to appreciate another cu



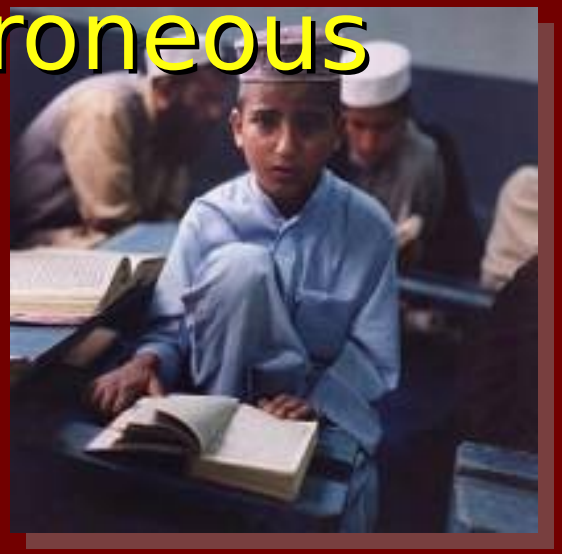
Culture and the Power of Words

- Language is part of culture and culture is part of language

- The two are intricately interwoven so that one cannot separate the two without losing the significance of either language or culture

Summary

Imposing our own values without making an attempt to understand another culture's values leads to erroneous analysis



Importance of Cultural Awareness

"The new military needs soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines who can deal with a diversity of peoples and cultures, who can tolerate ambiguity, take initiative, and ask questions."

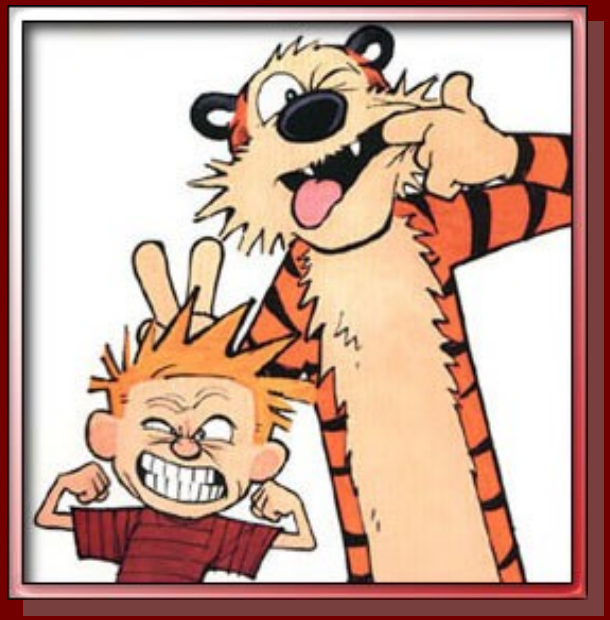
-- Alvin and Heidi Toffler, War and Anti-War, p. 74.

Importance of Cultural Awareness

Cultural awareness when available to the military decision maker allows him to think like the adversary

Importance of Cultural Awareness

Identify norms of behavior: people in a given culture typically behave in common, everyday situations



Cultural Awareness *Continued*:

<u>Identify social conditioning</u>:

- People act within a cultural frame of reference
- People respond in culturally conditioned ways to basic human needs

Cultural Awareness *Continued*:

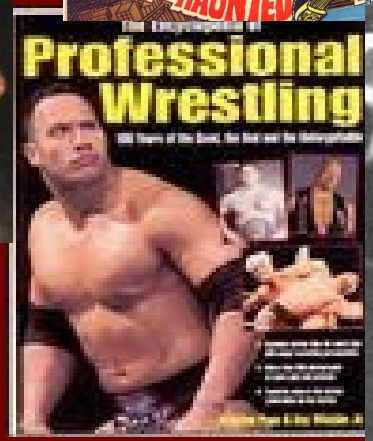
Identify religious belief: religious belief shapes and informs moral behavior

Cultural Awareness:

...is a process of acquiring knowledge and adjusting attitudes for effective communication and interaction

...engages the learner cognitively, behaviorally, and affectively

Cultural Awareness



ARTS & CULTURE TRUST

Cultural Awareness

- Should UMTs work to expand cultural understanding?
- Cultural understanding allows military decision maker to think like the enemy
- Save lives

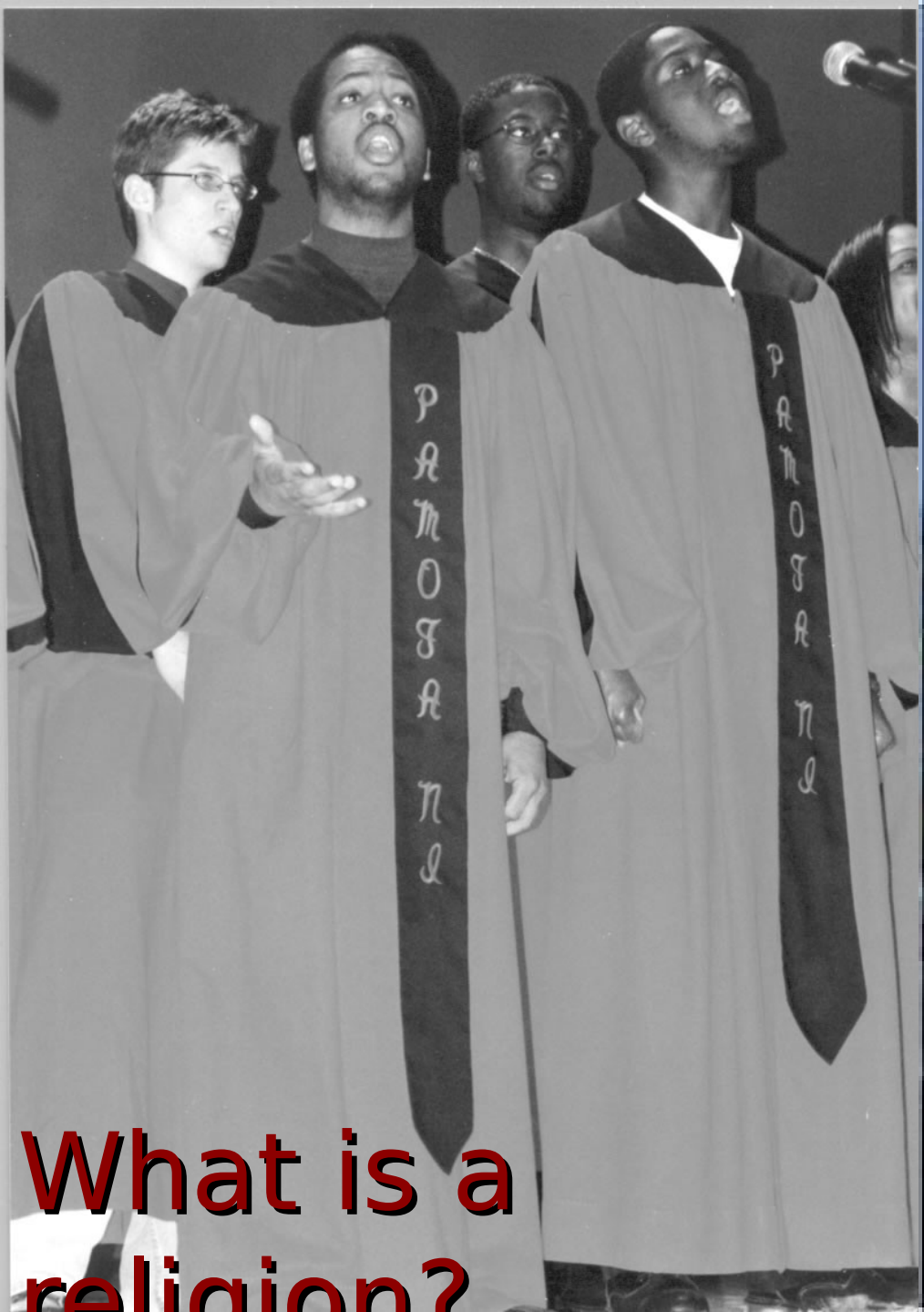
Cultural Awareness

- Allows commanders to significantly increase the pressure on an adversary
- Decrease friction among multinational partners, and
- Reduce operational costs in human and materiel resources

Religion

Religion & Respect

- The treatment of “religion” seeks to be positive, affirming, and peace enhancing
- The goal is to see the world through the eyes of those who practice the given religion
- An objective, empathetic, somewhat detached treatment of religion is the aim

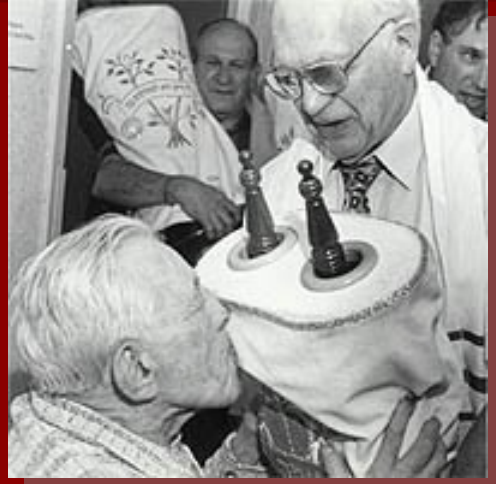


What is a religion?

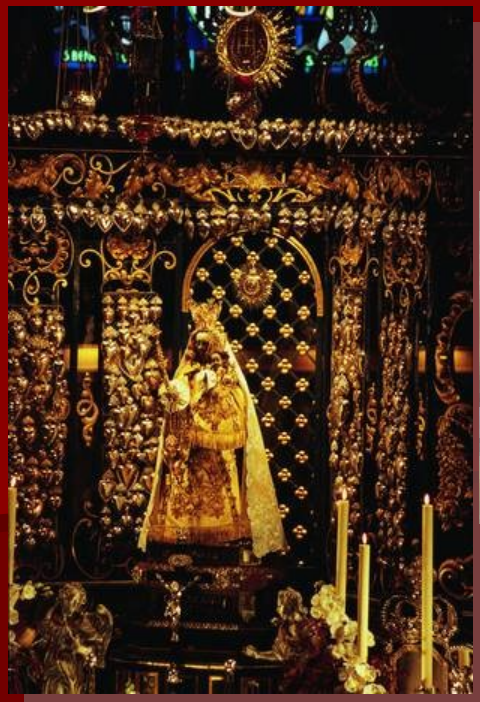
Define Religion

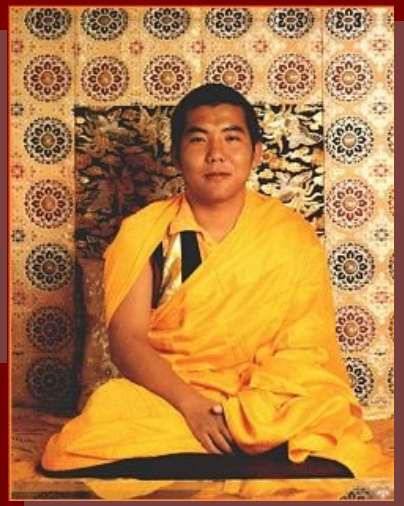
An individual's or a society's response to/search for that which it/they think(s)/feel(s) is ultimately real, truly true, articulated in myth, acted out in ritual, expressed in symbols, engendering (and being engendered by) powerful sentiments (an ethos) and usually embodied in institutions

-- Dr. Charles Ryerson, Princeton Theological Seminary



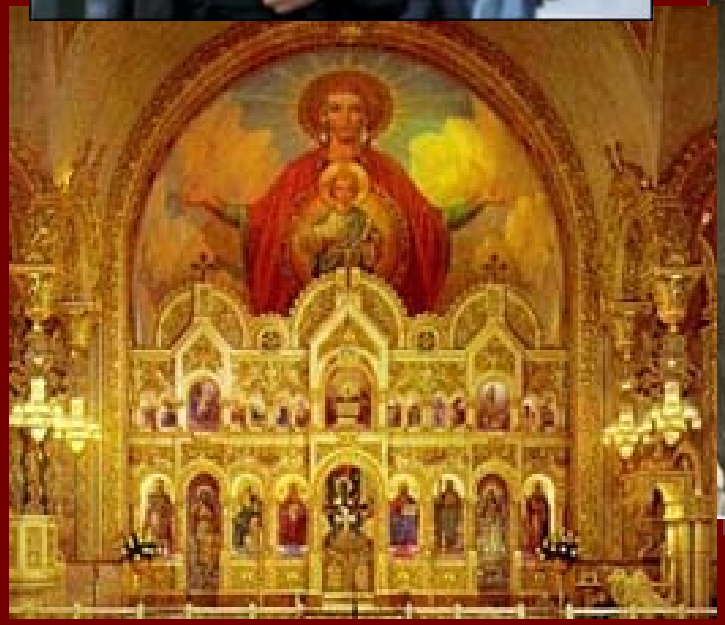
A religion is a way of life influenced by a world view and an
ce to shape a world view

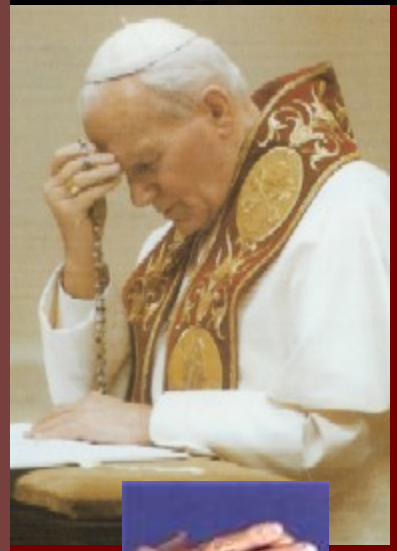




Common Elements in Religion

Doctrine, Stories Ethics, Ritu
Experience, Social





Impact of Religion on Mission

Five Levels of Impact:

- Individual
- Social
- Economic
- Military
- Political

Religious Commonalities

Consider concerns for existence:

- Security/Safety
- Significance/Control
- Information/Knowledge

“Because of the degree to which we as Americans separate our spiritual lives from our public lives, we face a certain difficulty in comprehending the depths to which religious and political considerations interact in shaping the perceptions and motivations of individuals from other societies.”

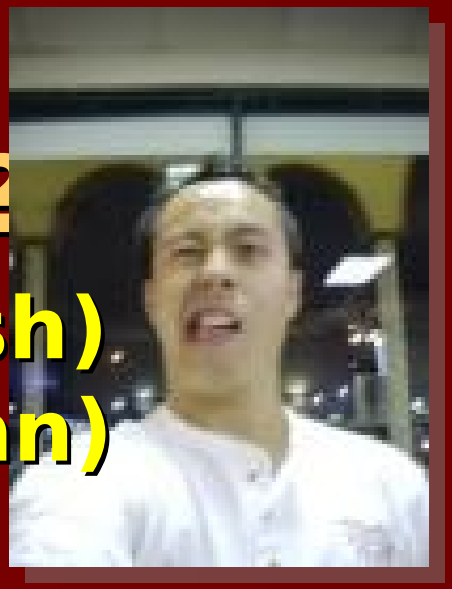
Douglas Johnston, PhD
Center for Strategic & International Studies

Religion provides human beings with transcendent or spiritual values in seeking to meet basic human needs

Break Time
10 minutes

What is a World View?

What is a world view?



***visione del mondo* (Spanish)**
***Weltanschauung* (German)**

A world view, also spelled as worldview, is a term derived from philosophy and science meaning, "look *onto* the world."

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia at
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/World_view

Worldview

- A person's fundamental "*world outlook,*" or life perspective
- It refers to their perceptions of deity, humanity and the rest of the universe
- It represents our personal metaphysical outlook on life

Worldview

A worldview (or vision of life) is a framework or set of fundamental beliefs through which we view the world and our calling and future in it

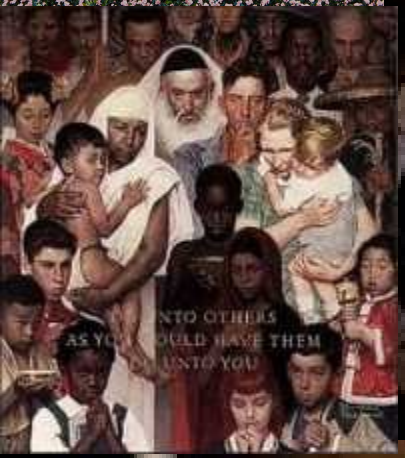
What is a world view?

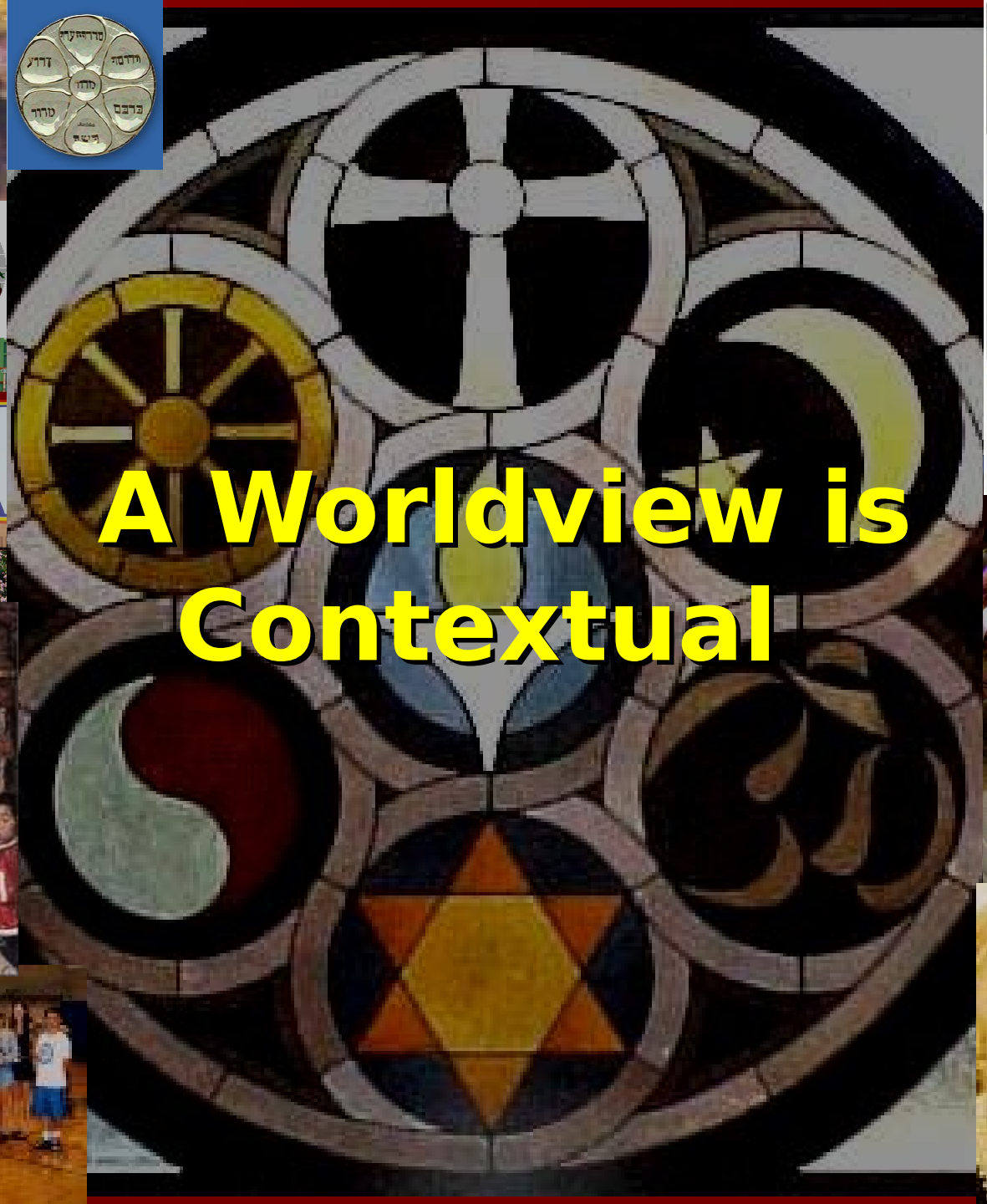
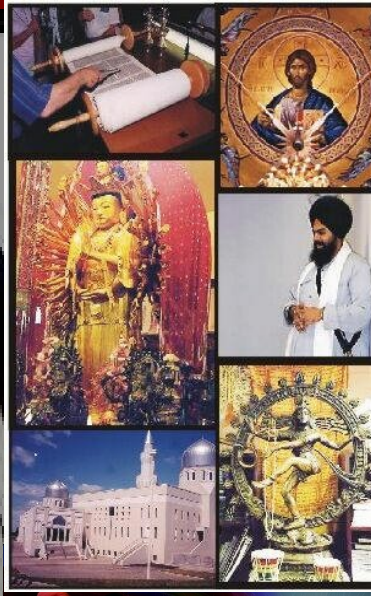
"…Consists of ideology (e.g. beliefs in God, cosmology), narrative (e.g. sacred writings and myths), norms (e.g. ethics and morality), rituals (e.g. activities designed to renew bonds) , experience (e.g. emotional and spiritual elements), and a social element (educating future generations)"

Worldview

A worldview may consist of six parts:

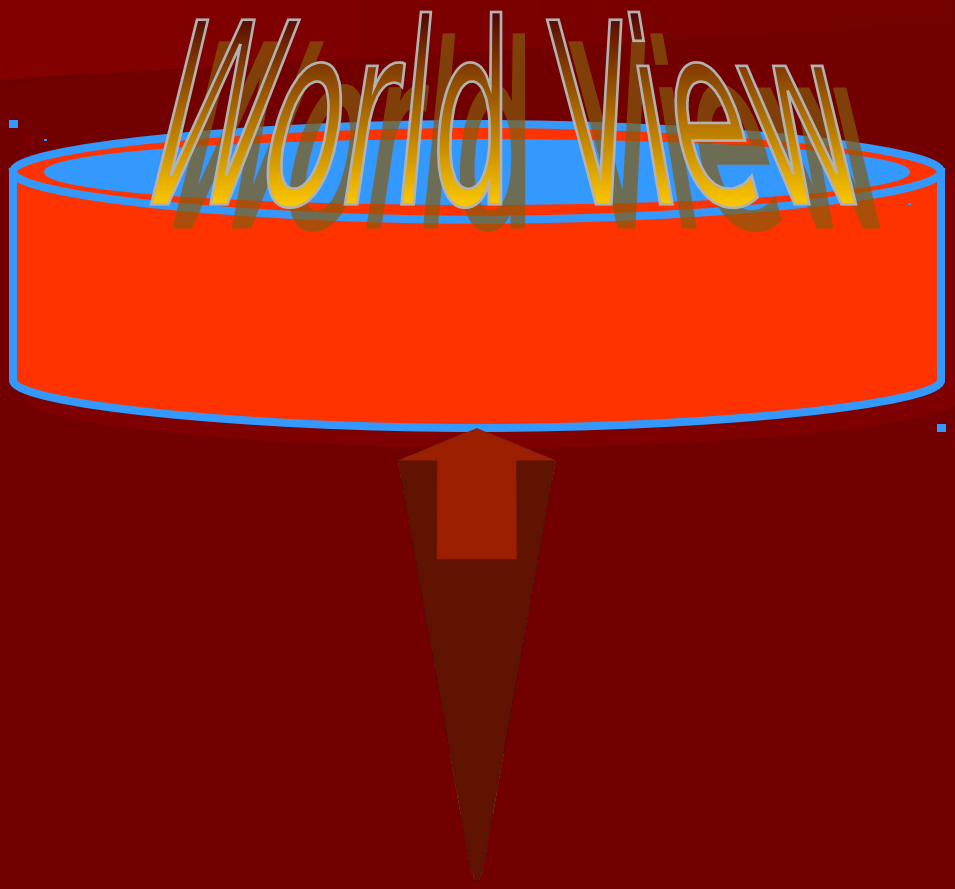
- Ideology (e.g. beliefs in God, cosmology),
- Narrative (e.g. sacred writings and myths),
- Norms (e.g. ethics and morality),
- Rituals (e.g. activities designed to renew bonds),
- Experience (e.g. emotional and spiritual elements), and
- A social element (educating future generations)



A Worldview is Contextual

Geography, weather, economics, security, significance, experience, education, culture, age, technology, tolerance, mental and physical health, age; no single one force, but a totality of forces shapes world view



How does religion shape a worldview?

Belief = I believe

what I believe in, hold most true, willing to die fo

influences/shapes

Perception = I see

how I see things (perception

has legitimacy)

influences/shapes

Behavior = I do

what I do/act, how I

and respond to events

uences/shapes

influences/shapes

influences/shapes

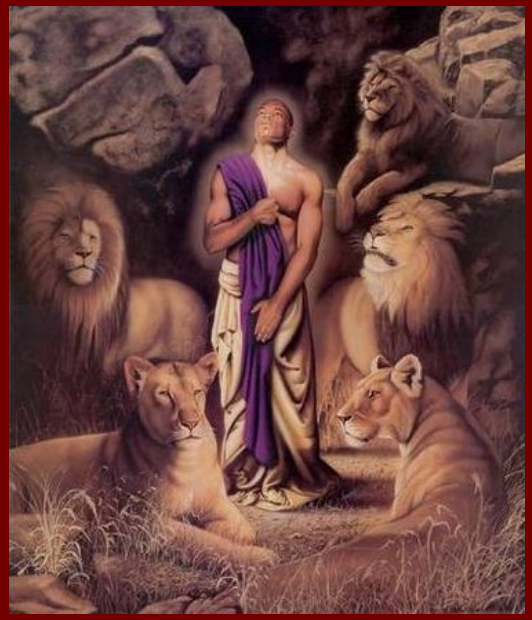
Levels of Analysis and Application

Ideology or Theology

Codes

Beliefs

Behaviors



THE PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE

What is the impact?

- Specific to our consideration of religion and world view is the role of information operations
- As an advisor to the command, we must know how religion impacts the military mission

Why is a non-western worldview important to military leaders?

Mission Imperative

Know and Understand the Operational Environment

Situational Awarenes s

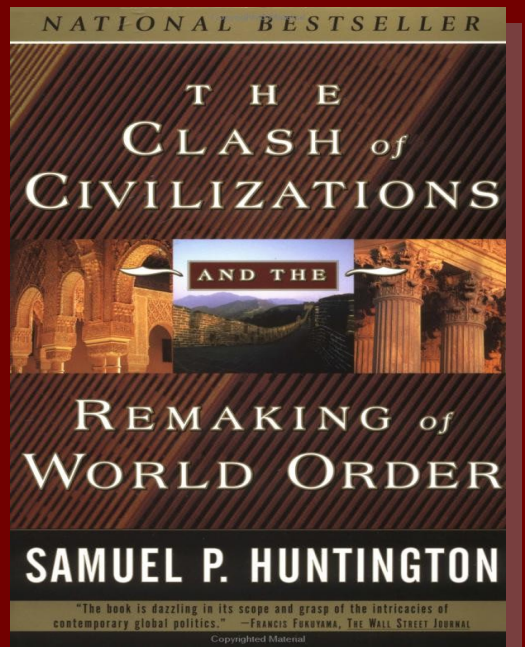
worldview

Worldview Century

21st

The Clash of Civilizations

Huntington's worldview of interlocking cultural conflicts and crashing civilizations: religiously militant civilizations will blossom into cu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"The book is dazzling in its scope and grasp of the intricacies of contemporary global politics." —Francis Fukuyama, The Wall Street Journal
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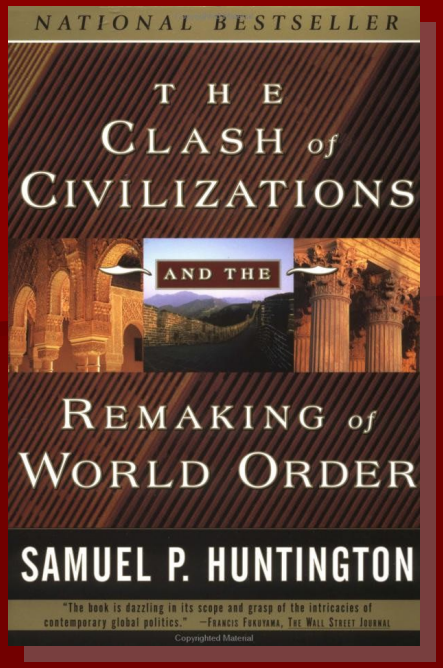
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FOREIGN AFFAIRS

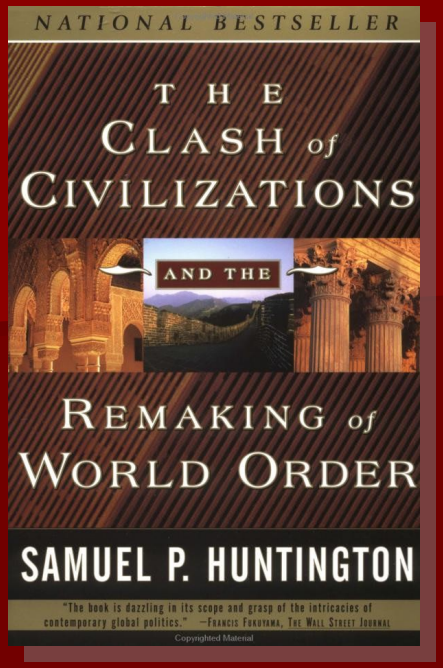
The Clash of Civilizations, Foreign Affairs, Summer '93, v72, n3.

- Born April 18, 1927
- Harvard based since 1950
- Founder and co-editor of the quarterly journal, *Foreign Policy*- - Policy adviser to U.S. Presidents L. B. Johnson and Jimmy Carter

Samuel Paul Huntington is a professor of International Studies and former chairman of the Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies. Currently, he is Eaton Professor of the Science of Government.

Huntington's Hypothesis

"It is my hypothesis that the fundamental source of conflict in this new world will not be primarily ideological or primarily economic. The great divisions among humankind and the dominating source of conflict will be cultural. The clash of civilizations will dominate global politics. The fault lines between civilizations will be the battle lines of the future."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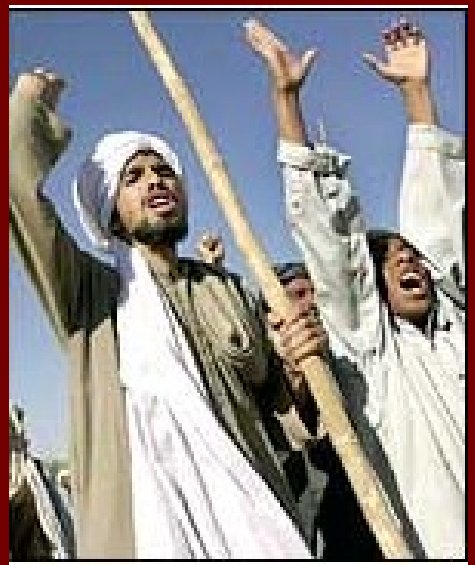
World history will be marked by conflicts between three principal groups:

- Western universalism
- Muslim militancy, and
- Chi[illegible]tion



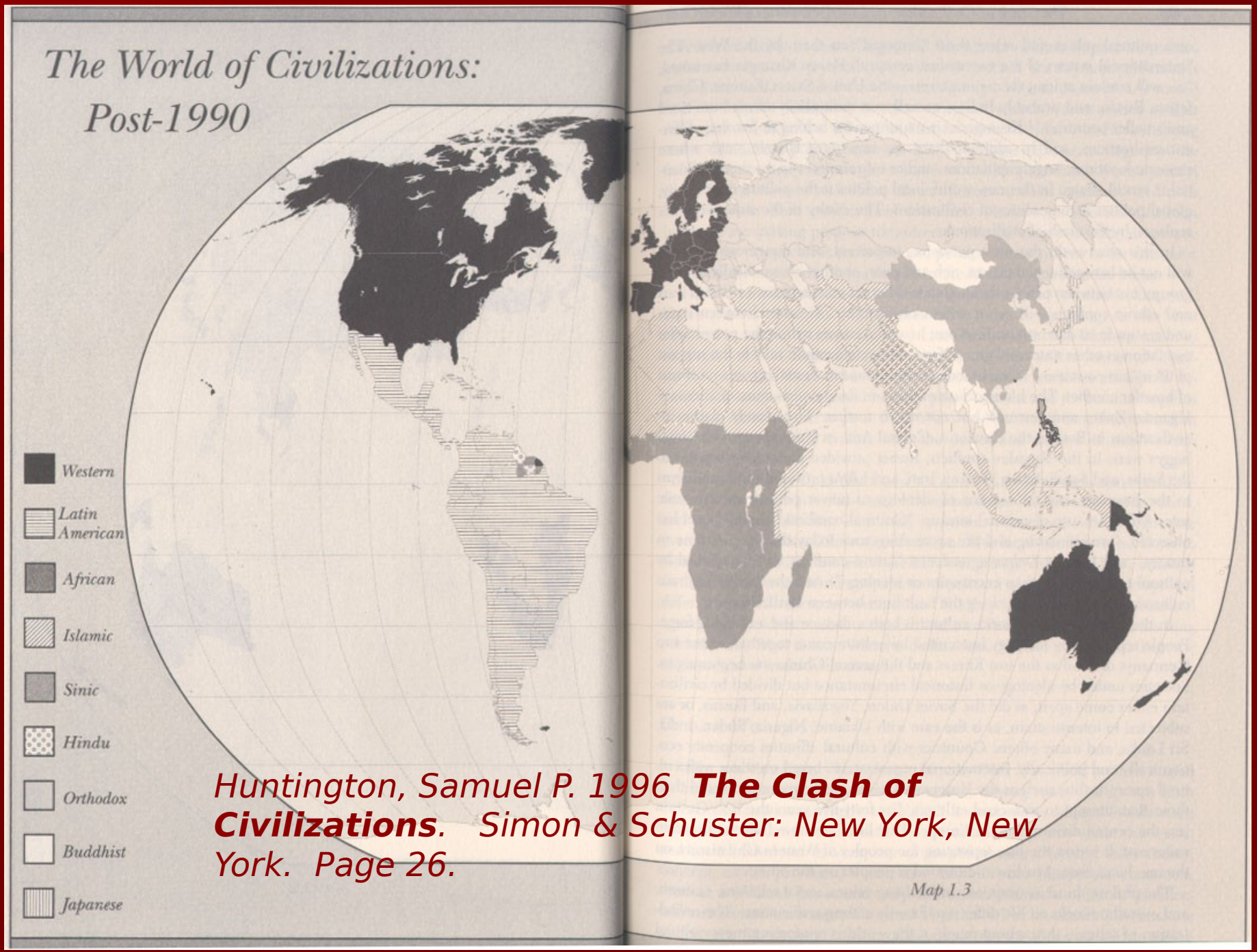
Civilization

A civilization is defined both by common objective elements, such as language, history, religion, customs, institutions, and by the subjective self-ident .

Huntington, page 29

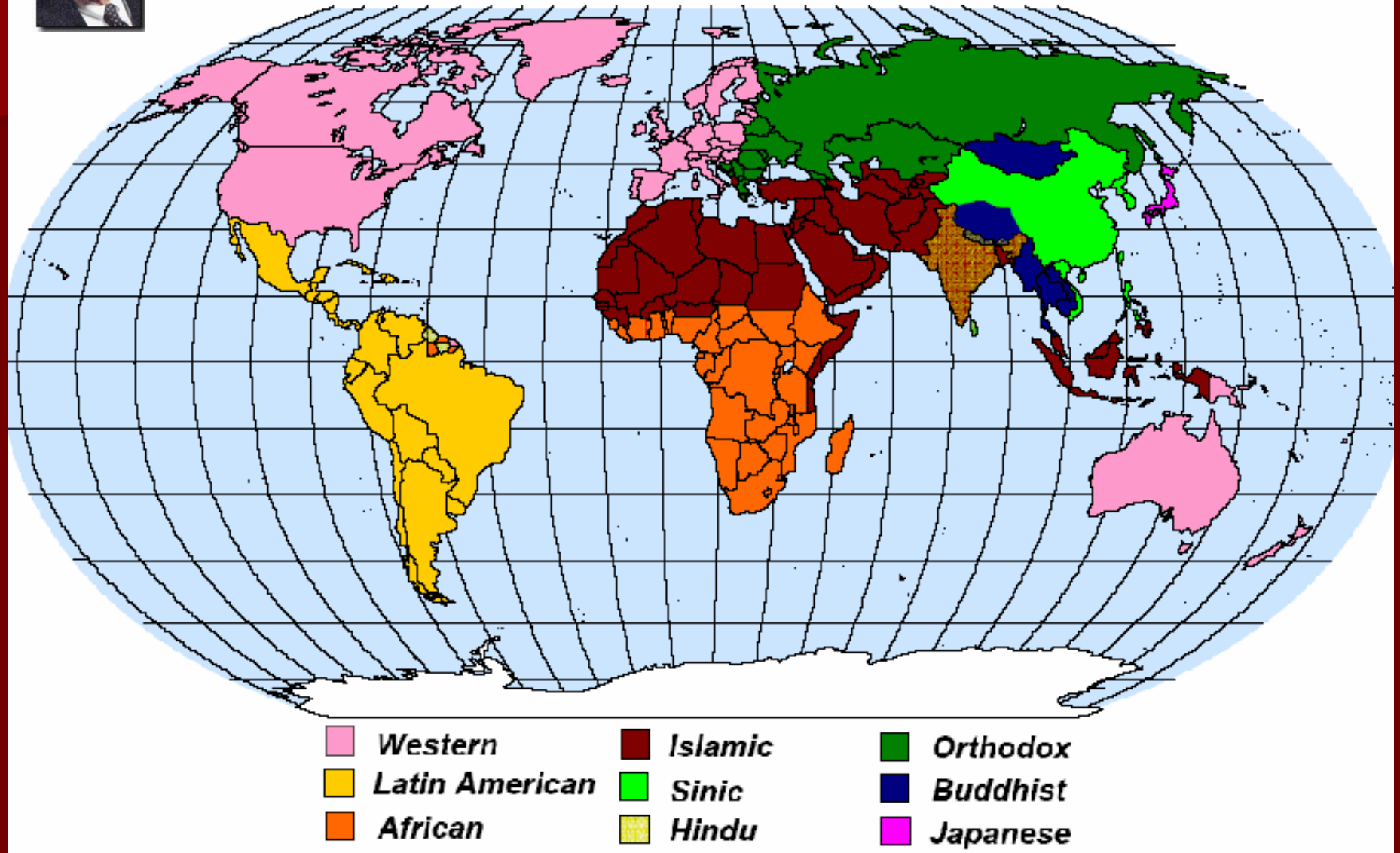
Key Points

- Conflicts emerge from religious faith and dogma
- Fundamentalism has moved in to fill the gap
- The “unsecularization of the world”
- Revival of religion provides a basis for cultural identity



Huntington, Samuel P. 1996 ***The Clash of Civilizations****. Simon & Schuster: New York, New York. Page 26.*

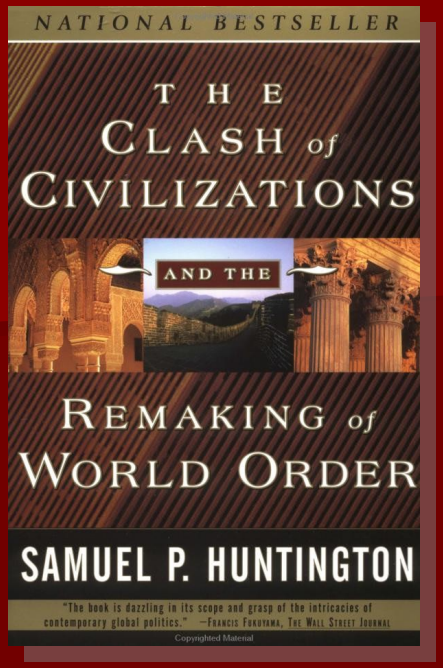
The World of Civilizations: Post-1990



Derived from 'The Clash of Civilizations and the Making of World Order, Samuel P. Huntington, Touchstone, 1997, Map 1.3, p. 26-27.

Huntington's Worldview

The fundamental source of conflict will be cultural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Survival of the West depends on Americans reaffirming their Western identity and Western societies reaffirming their civilizatio

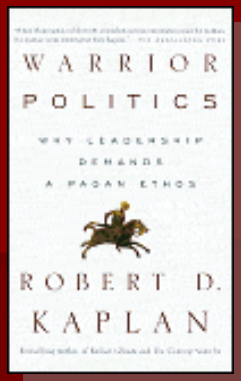
The Coming Anarchy:

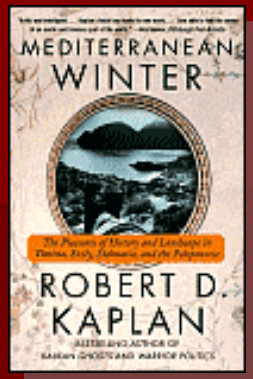
How scarcity, crime, overpopulation, tribalism, and disease are rapidly destroying the social fabric of our planet

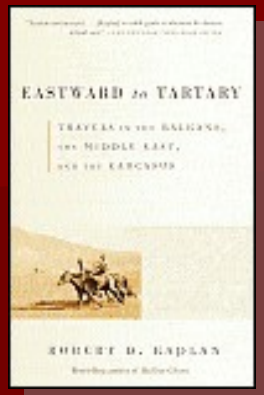
Robert D. Kaplan, *Atlantic Monthly,* February 1994, Volume 273, pages 44-76

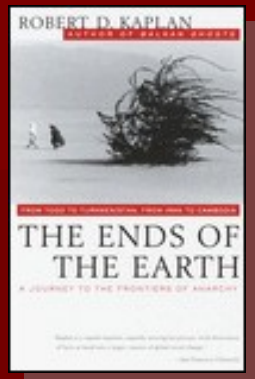
- Presents a worldview of our planet in the 21st century
- Examines interaction of religion, culture, demographic shifts and distribution of natural resources in areas of the

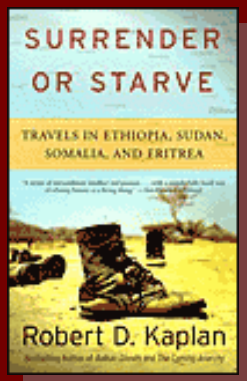
Robert D. Kaplan's Books

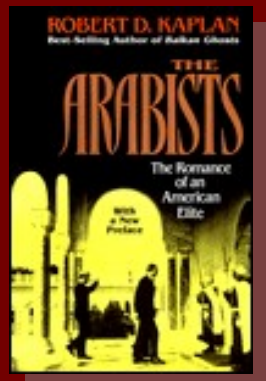


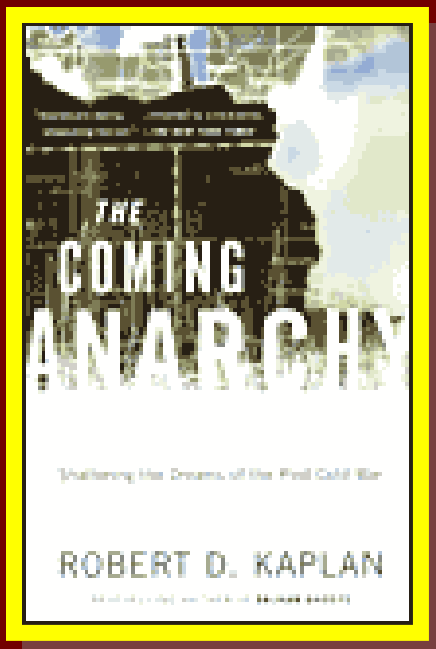


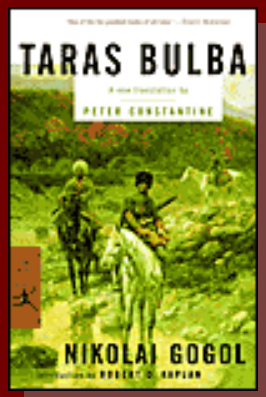


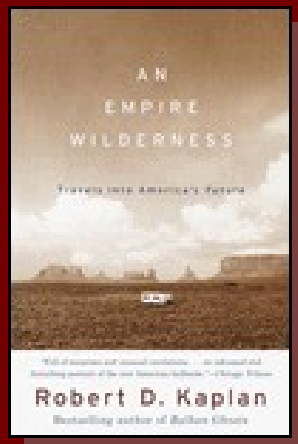


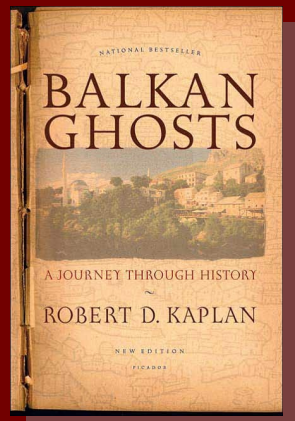










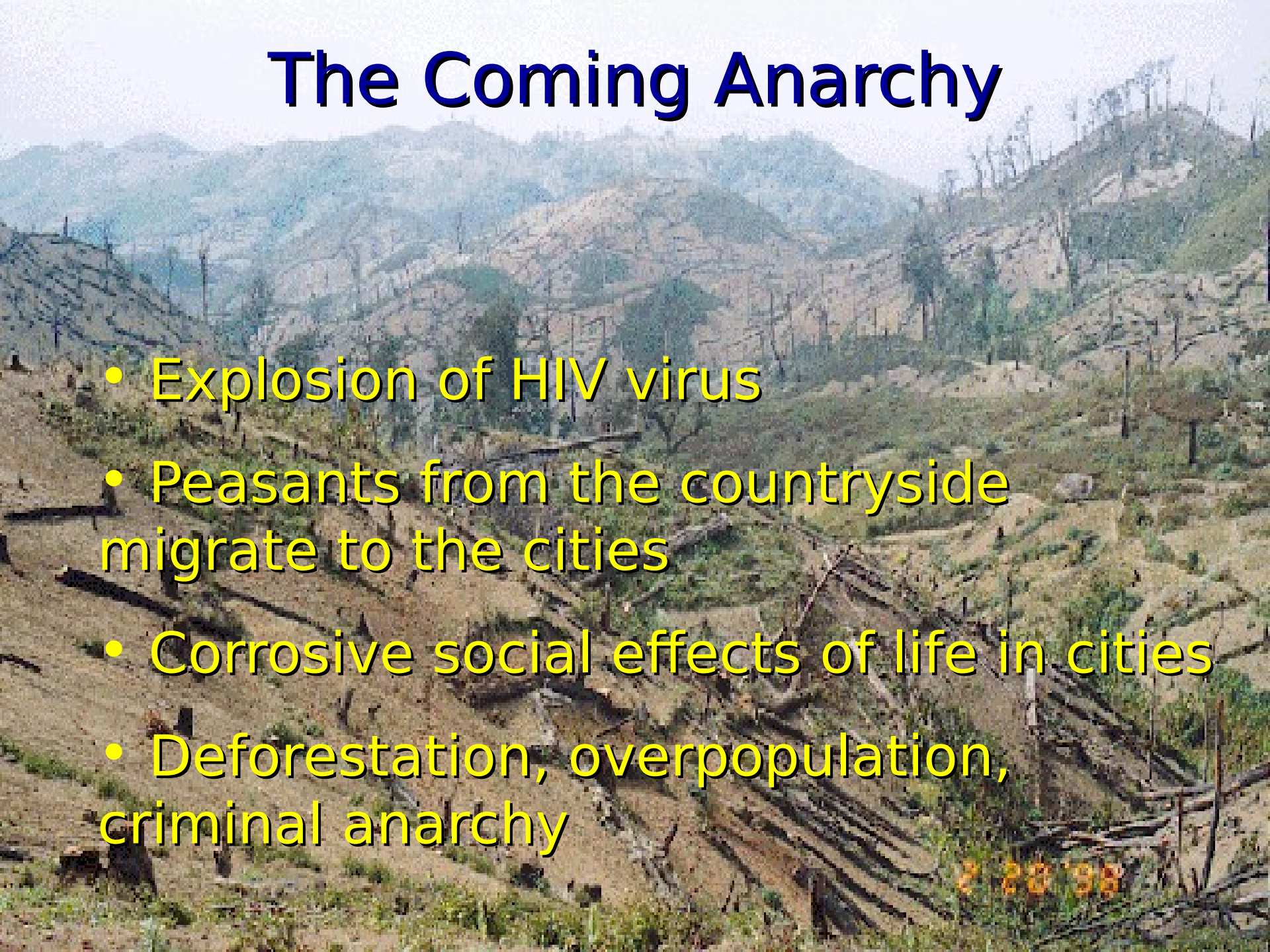


The Coming Anarchy: Shattering the Dreams of the Post Cold War
by Robert D. Kaplan ISBN: 0375503544 Publisher: Random House Publication Year: 2000 Publisher Price: $21.95 Cover Type: hardcover

The Coming Anarchy

- Focuses on increasing lawlessness in West Africa
- Animist beliefs based on irrational spirit power lead to atrocities
- In Arab North Africa, crime is much less, Islam provides a social anchor: of education and indoctrination

The Coming Anarchy



- Explosion of HIV virus
- Peasants from the countryside migrate to the cities
- Corrosive social effects of life in cities
- Deforestation, overpopulation, criminal anarchy

The Coming Anarchy

- Translates into the real “strategic” danger of the future
- Political maps meaningless: Sierra Leone, Ivory Coast
- National armies are an unruly rabble
- Rebel armies align with disaffected village chiefs

The Coming Anarchy

- “A pre-modern formlessness governs the battlefield”
- Millions displaced by civil wars camp on the borders
- National borders become meaningless

The Coming Anarchy

- “Countryside draining into dense slums”
- “An anarchic implosion of criminal violence”
- “International drug cartels discovered utility of the weak”
- Muslim fundamentalism and Christian militancy

The Coming Anarchy

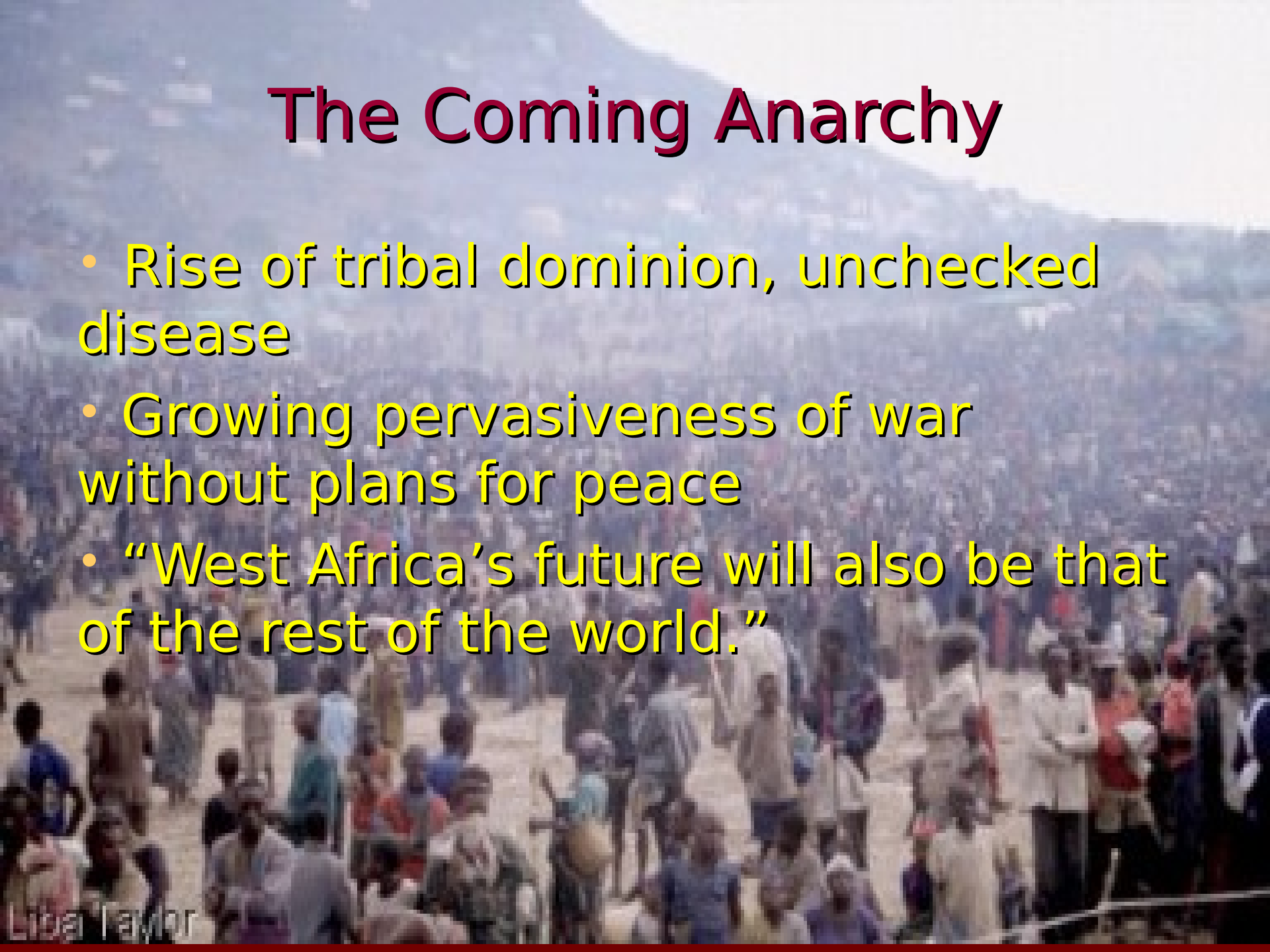
- Desperate countries continue to deplete natural resources, “Burgeoning megalopolis” without central authority

- “The coming upheaval will loom

The Coming Anarchy

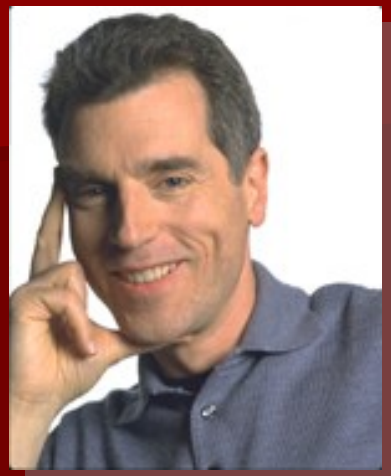
- Primary rain forests burned
- Precious lumber harvested
- Soil erosion, flooding with more mosquitoes
- Withering central governments losing civil control

The Coming Anarchy

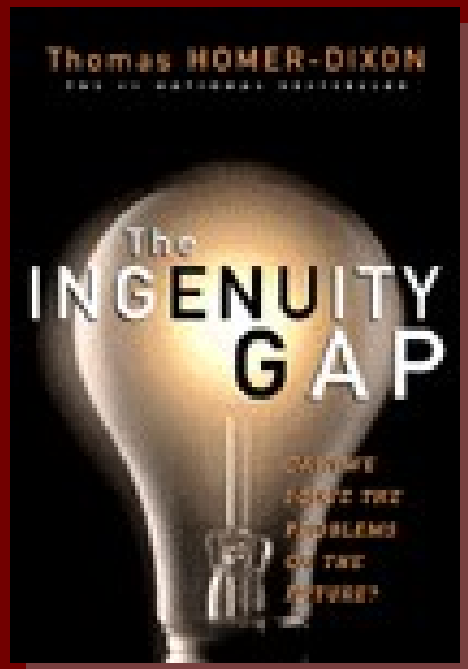


- Rise of tribal dominion, unchecked disease
- Growing pervasiveness of war without plans for peace
- “West Africa’s future will also be that of the rest of the world.”

Environment as a Hostile Power

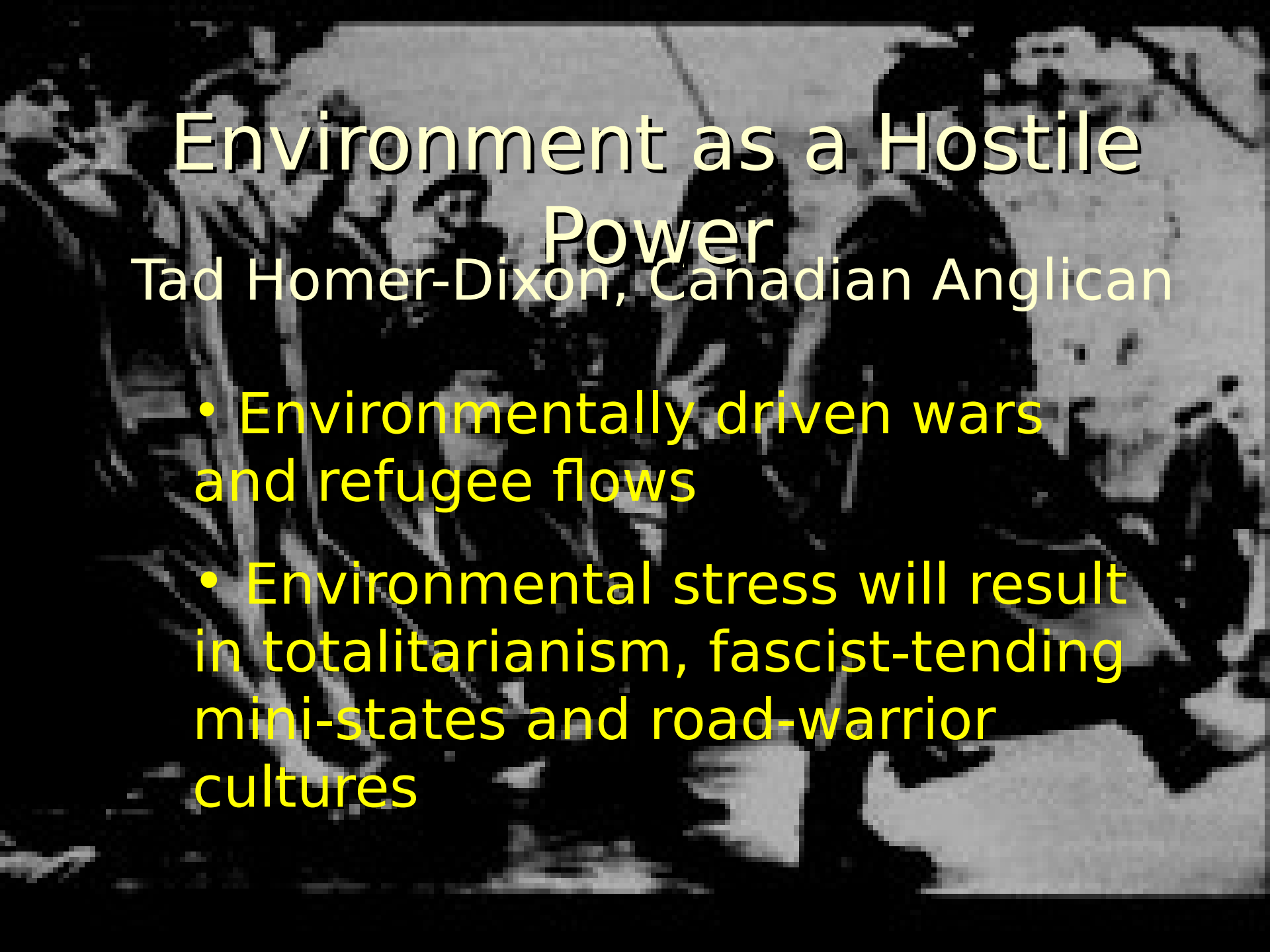


Prof. Thomas “Tad” Homer-Dixon
Director of the Trudeau Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Toronto;
Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, University of Toronto



The Ingenuity Gap: Can We Solve the Problems of the Future?

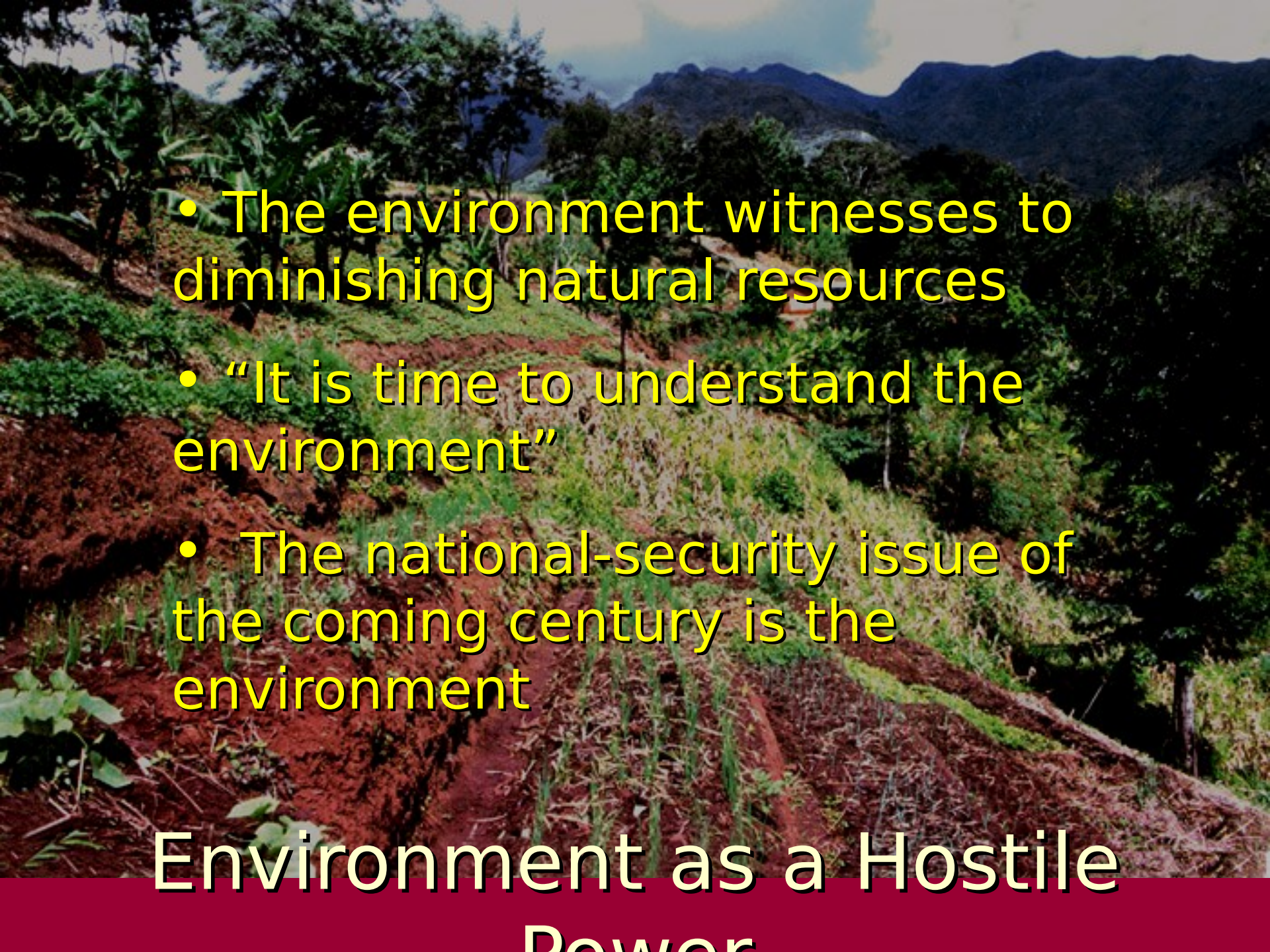
Publisher: Vintage Canada
Format: Trade Paperback, 496 pages
Pub Date: August 2001



Environment as a Hostile Power

Tad Homer-Dixon, Canadian Anglican

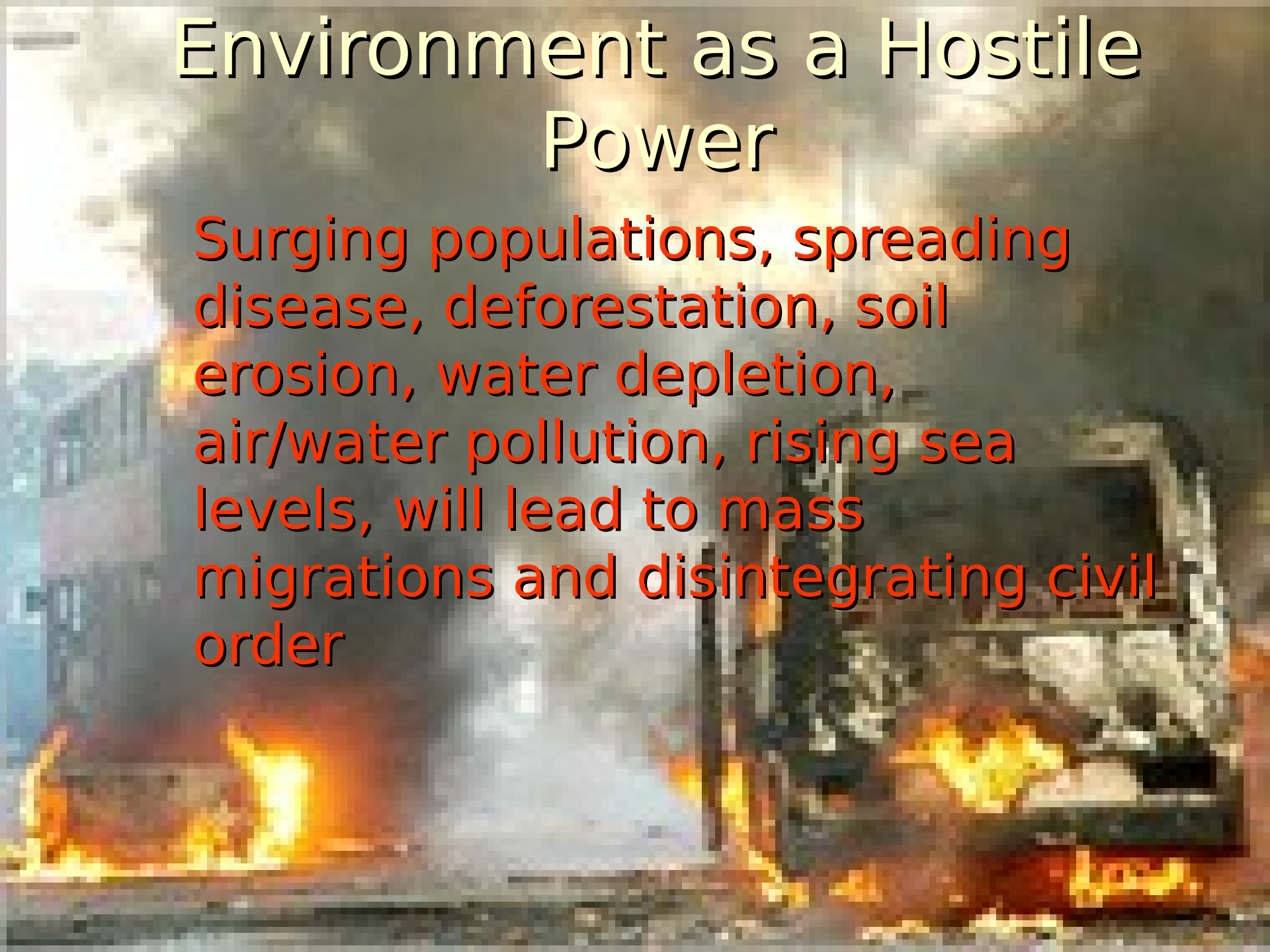
- Environmentally driven wars and refugee flows
- Environmental stress will result in totalitarianism, fascist-tending mini-states and road-warrior cultures



- The environment witnesses to diminishing natural resources
- “It is time to understand the environment”
- The national-security issue of the coming century is the environment

Environment as a Hostile Power

Environment as a Hostile Power



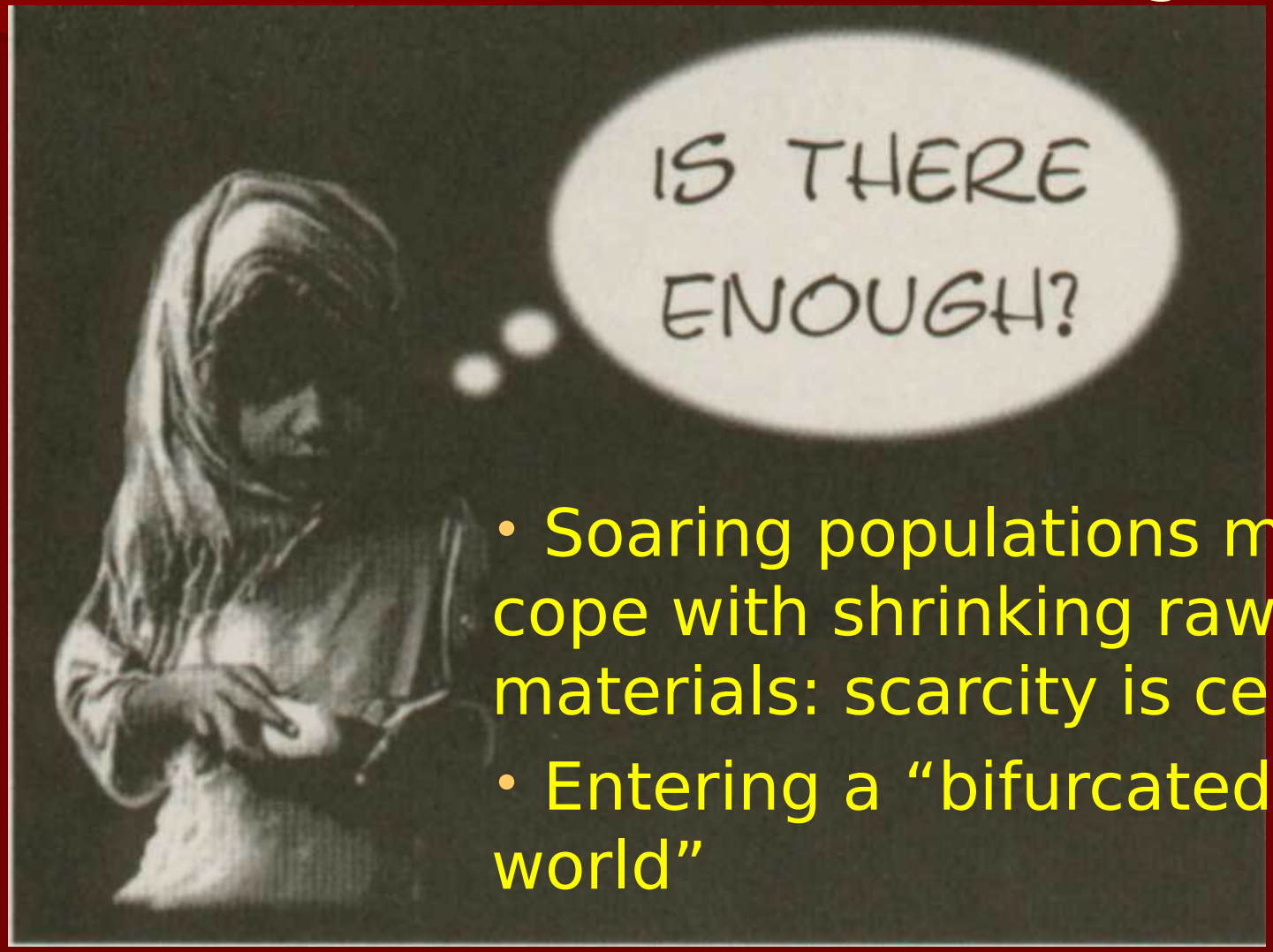
Surging populations, spreading disease, deforestation, soil erosion, water depletion, air/water pollution, rising sea levels, will lead to mass migrations and disintegrating civil order

Environment as a Hostile Power

- Environment is part of a terrifying array of problems that will define a new threat to our security
- Future wars/civil violence will arise from scarcities of resources such as water, croplands, forests and fish

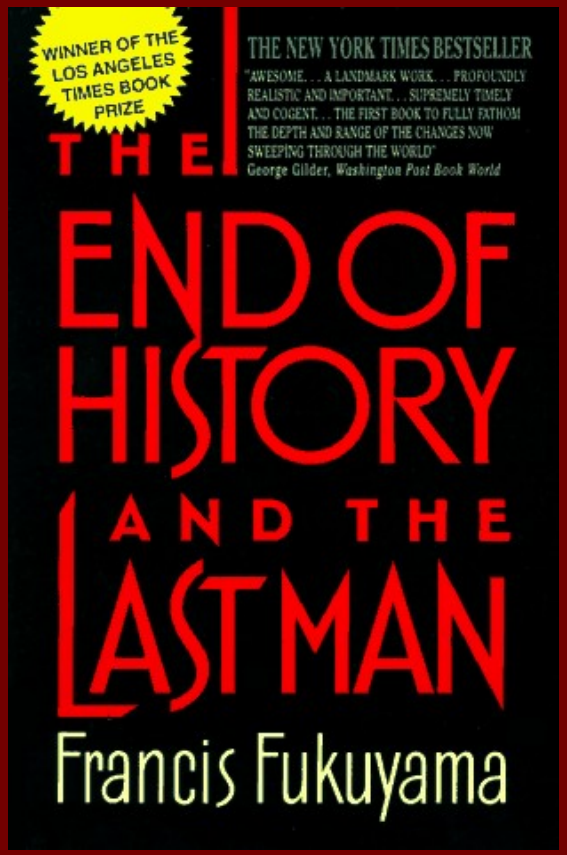
Environment as a Hostile Power

Tad Homer-Dixon, Canadian Anglican



- Soaring populations must cope with shrinking raw materials: scarcity is certain
- Entering a “bifurcated world”

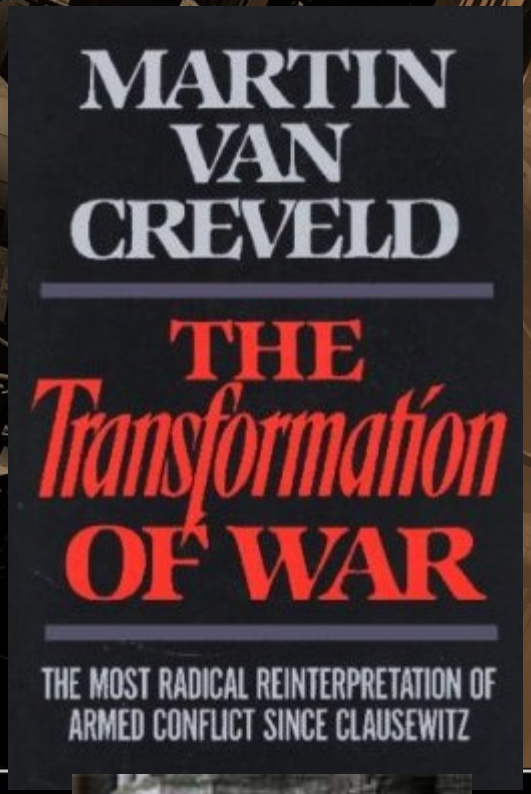
Francis Fukuyama's Worldview


WINNER OF THE LOS ANGELES TIMES BOOK PRIZE
THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER
"AWESOME. . . A LANDMARK WORK. . . PROFOUNDLY REALISTIC AND IMPORTANT. . . SUPREMELY TIMELY AND COGENT. . . THE FIRST BOOK TO FULLY FATHOM THE DEPTH AND RANGE OF THE CHANGES NOW SWEEPING THROUGH THE WORLD"
George Gilder, Washington Post Book World
THE END OF HISTORY AND THE LAST MAN
Francis Fukuyama

Born October 27, 1952 in Chicago is an influential American political economist and author. Currently Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy at the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced

He argues that the progression of human history as a struggle between ideologies is largely at an end, with the world settling on liberal democracy after the end of the Cold War.

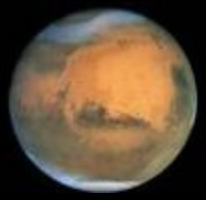
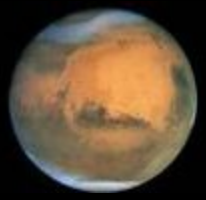
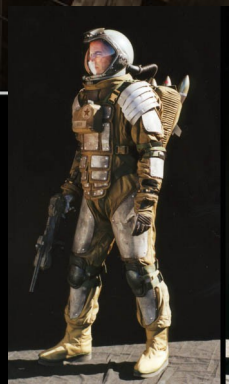
The Transformation of War



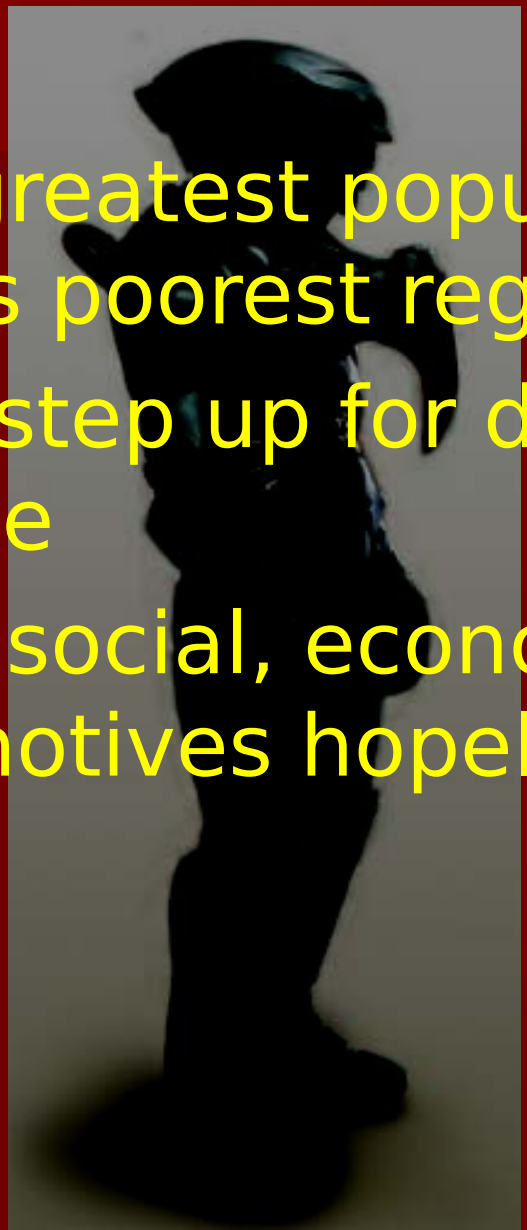
Martin van L. Crevéld lives and teaches in Jerusalem. He has written several books that have influenced modern military theory, including *Fighting Power*, *Command in War*, and most significantly, *The Transformation of War*.

A New Kind of War

- Martin van Creveld's The Transformation of War: complements Homer-Dixon's work on the environment, Huntington's thoughts on cultural clash
- People find liberation in violence

A New Kind of War



- Earth’s greatest population is found in its poorest regions
- War is a step up for desperately poor people
- Political, social, economic and religious motives hopelessly entangled

A New Kind of War

- The wars will engulf civilizations, we no longer live in a world where the old rules of state warfare apply

- Loose and shadowy organisms will conduct wars of terror

A New Kind of War

Van Creveld

Armed conflict will be waged by men on earth, not robots in space, waged like primitive tribes with large scale conventional war

A New Kind of War

Van Creveld

- Technology will be used to primitive ends
- Distinctions between war and crime will break down

A New Kind of War

Van Creveld

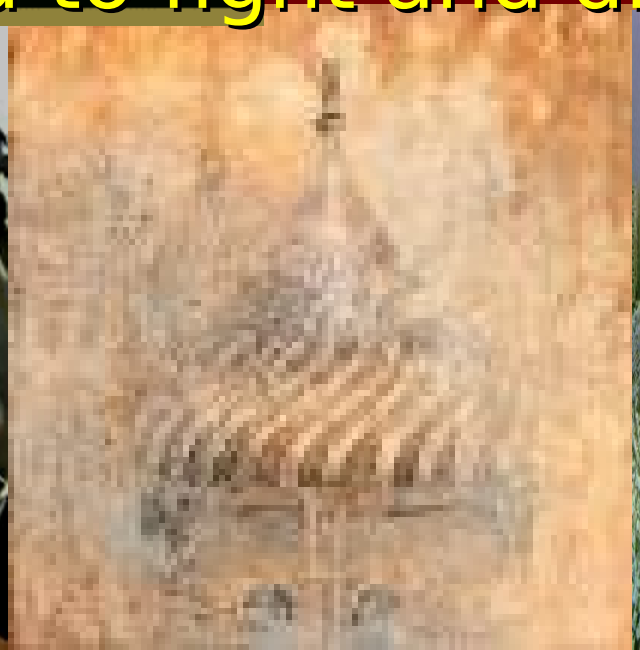
- Wars will become sub-national, local citizens will not be protected, urban mafias provide protection from local inhabitants
- Political values will become meaningless: state power fades

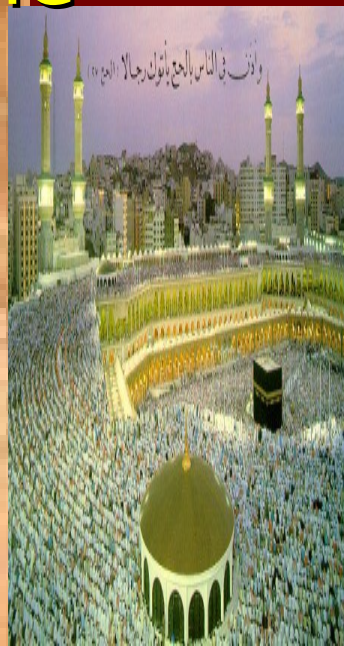
The Last Map

- Instead of borders, moving centers of power as in the Middle Ages
- Constantly in flux, a shifting pattern of buffer enti

Points of Similarity

- Civilizations defined by religion and tribal ethnicity not borders
- Islam is forging a consensus with modernization: it is the one religion prepared to fight and die





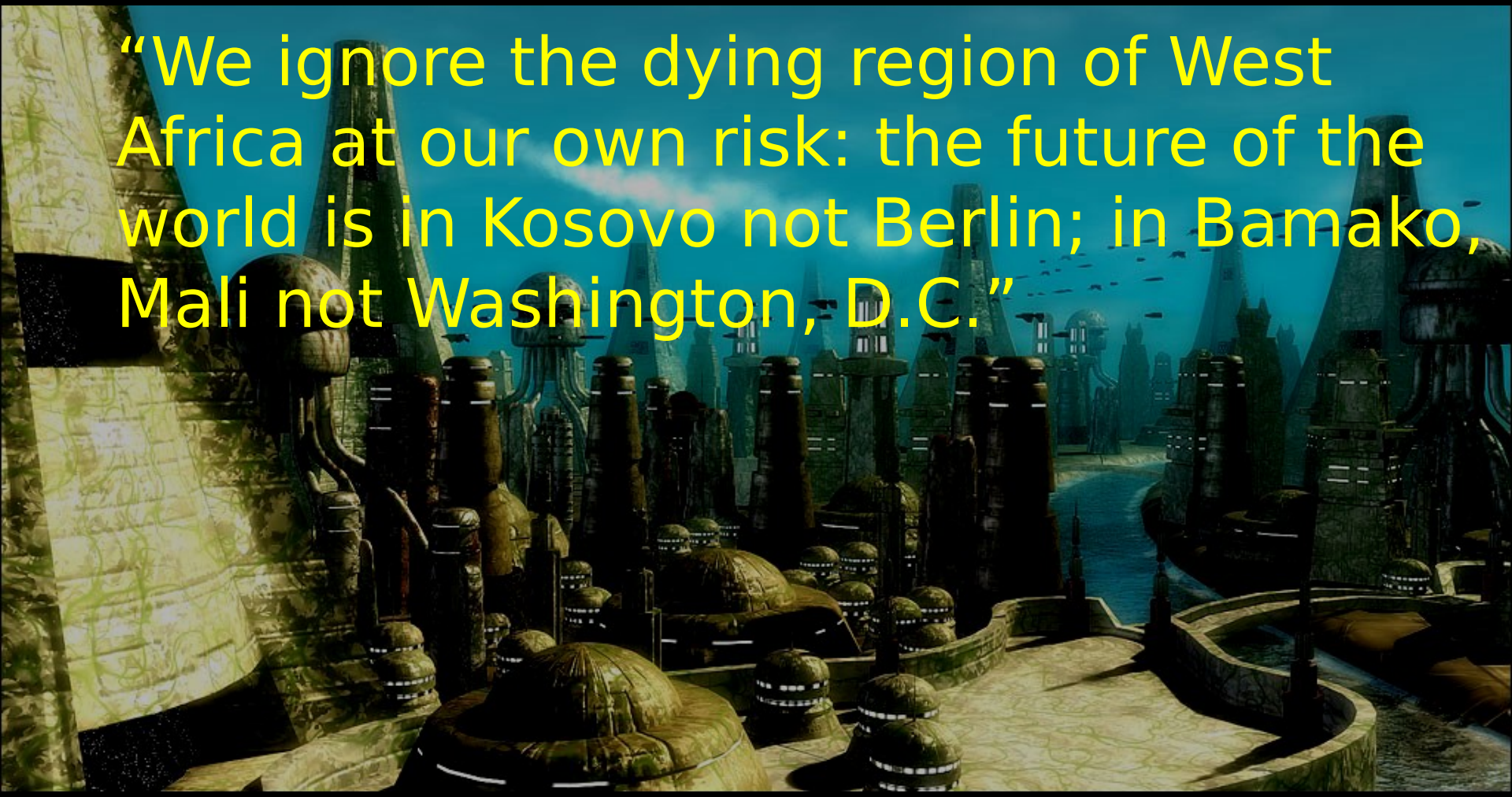
Points of Similarity

- Islam's militancy makes it attractive to the downtrodden; world's fastest growing religion and
- Islam[illegible]e to crime

Points of Similarity

- Nation states dissolve, cultural and tribal identity abounds
- Islam spreads, Arab countries double in population, Pan-Islam becomes a political s

The Road Ahead

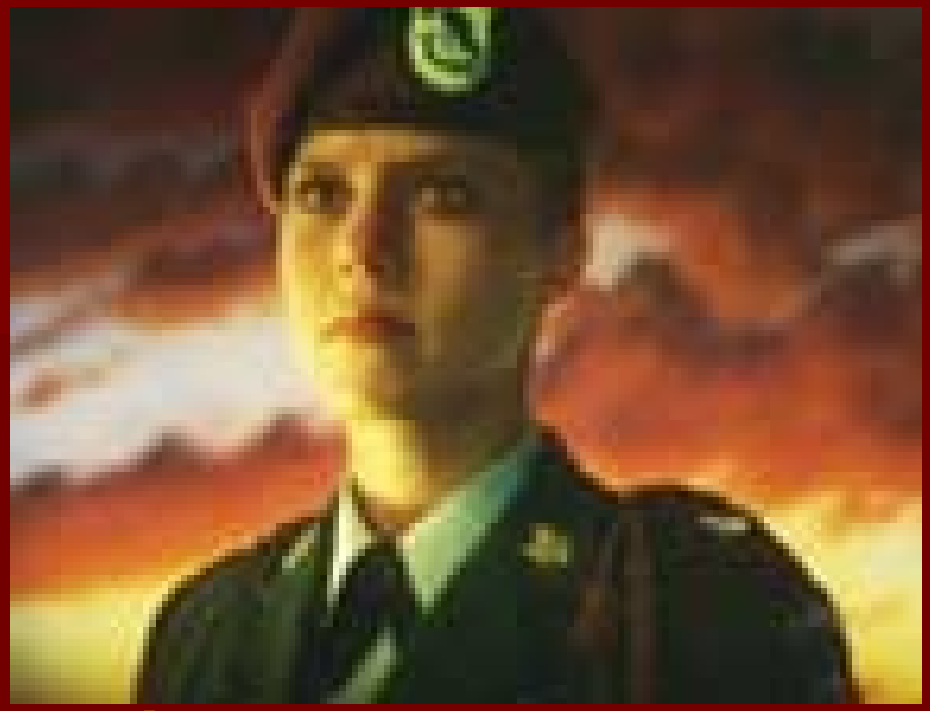

“We ignore the dying region of West Africa at our own risk: the future of the world is in Kosovo not Berlin; in Bamako, Mali not Washington, D.C.”

Conclusion: Expand Worldview

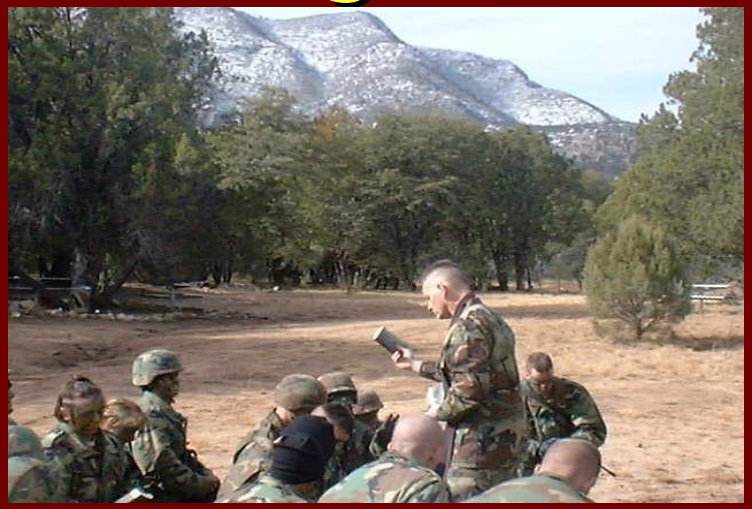
- Information from those in other cultures
- Deploy, observe and record
- Read and study
- Information from others of your own faith
- Be aware of personal and cultural biases
- Cooperate and Network

Break Time

Religious Area Assessment (RAA)



Religious Area Assessment
Religious Impact Analysis



Impact of Religious Practices

"Troops are particularly warned to avoid any actions showing criticism or lack of respect for the religious beliefs and practices observed by the native inhabitants; the more one shows a fraternal spirit, the easier will be the task." Marine Corps Small Wars Handbook, 1940, (page 15).

Dual Role of the Chaplain

Fundamentals of the Chaplaincy

Dual Role of the Chaplain

1) As Religious Leader - primary role as required by law

2) Staff Officer - advisor on matters of:

- religion
- morals
- morale

(Reference AR 165-1, 4-4a and 4-5a)

Chaplain as Staff Officer

Review

Two Primary Staff Officer Responsibilities:

1) Ensure Religious Freedom by providing comprehensive religious support (Religious Leader)

2) Advise the Commander (Staff Officer)

Chaplain as Staff Officer *includes*

Informing the soldier on the line:

-To respect others by respecting their sacred beliefs

-To win hearts and minds

-To create positive perceptions

Religious Support Definition FM 1-05, Chapter 1

Includes:

"Advice to the commander on morals and morale as effected by religion, the impact of local religions on the military mission, and the ethical impact of command decisions"

Chaplain as Advisor

Advise the Commander on matters of religion, morals and morale as it impacts the mission

JP 3-13, Chaplain as Liaison

“Chaplains, as noncombatants, should not participate in combatant activities that might compromise their noncombatant status, however…”

JP 3-13, Chaplain as Liaison

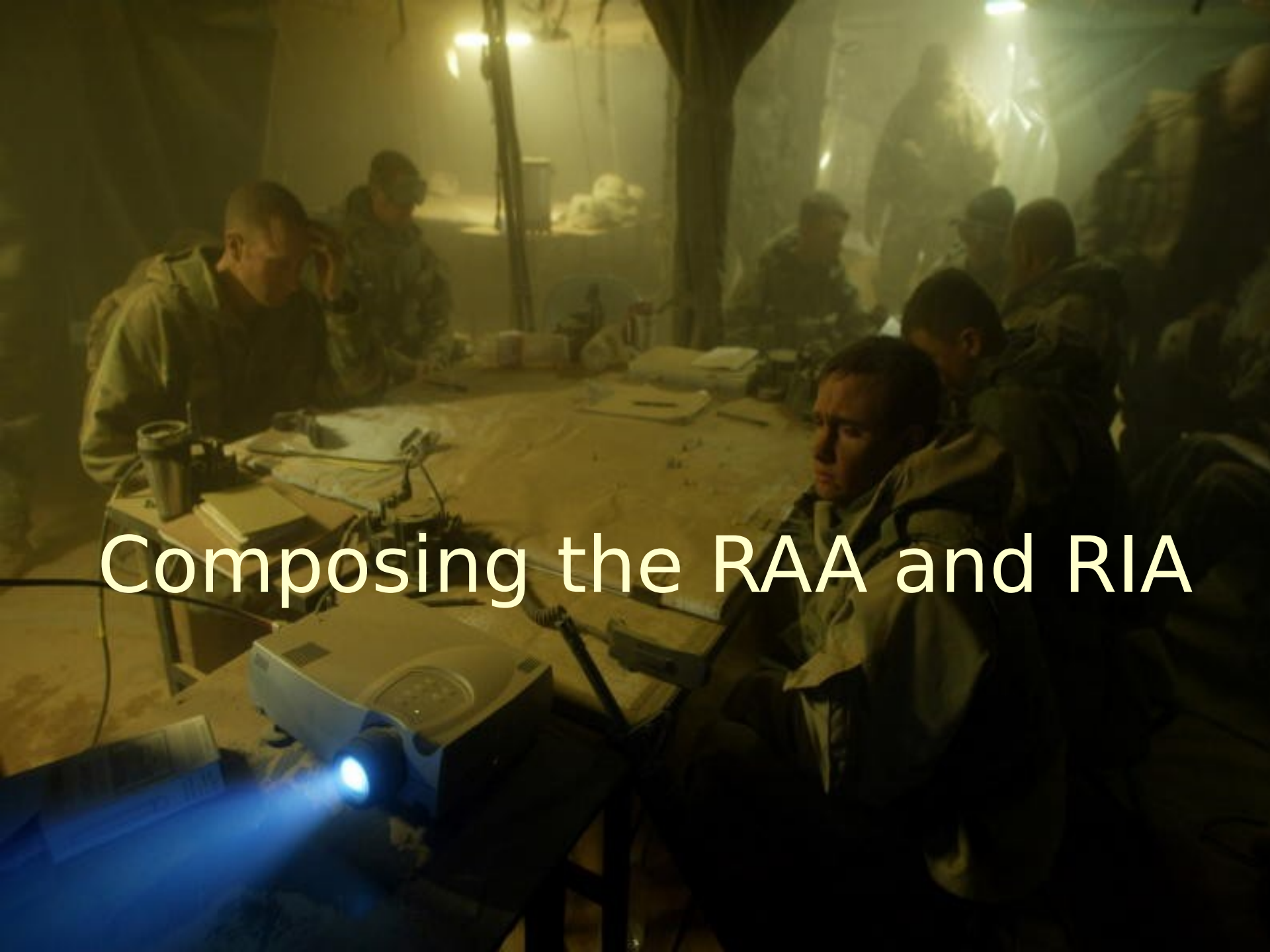
"...however they may provide relevant information on the religious, cultural, and ideological issues at the strategic theater and operational levels."

JP 3-13, Chaplain as Liaison

“Information may influence current strategy, planning, operations and execution in order to achieve theater objectives and support commanders. Commanders and their staffs may consider religion, cultural issues, and ideology when developing schemes of maneuver, and ROE or planning CMOs, PSYOP, IO, and PA activities.”

JP 3-13, Chaplain as Liaison

“Chaplains interacting with local religious leaders and NGOs can provide religious diplomacy and advise commanders on issues that could potentially alienate coalition partners and civilian populations and hamper military operations.”



Composing the RAA and RIA

Religious Area Assessment

The accumulation & categorization of information concerning religious practices and traditions in a specified location

Religious Impact Analysis (RIA)

The identification of mission impact issues arising from religion in a specified location

Three Actions

- Anticipate Location
  - Accumulate Facts
    - Categorize Information

1-Anticipate Location
Ask

- Where are we going?
- What is our Area of Operations (AO)?
- What is happening?

2-Accumulate Information

Gather Information Sources *Selectively*, consult

- Published Documents
- Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)
- Reliable Websites
- Points of Interests
- Missionary Journals

3-Categorize Information

(Nine Categories)

1. Holy Days, Rituals & Customs
2. Sites & Shrines
3. Primary Values
4. Leadership
5. Tolerance/ Religious Intensity

Categorize Information

(Nine Categories)

6. Relationship to Society
7. Organization
8. Doctrine/Myths
9. History/Background

Impact of Religion on Mission
1 of 5

Remember:

- Be Selective
- Stay in Your Lane
- Ask the Key Question
  "So What?"
- Use Common Sense

Impact of Religion on Mission
2 of 5

Consider Unity and Diversity of Culture

- Security/Safety
- Significance/Control
- Information/Knowledge

Impact of Religion on Mission

3 of 5

Consider Worldview of Local People

- **Naturalist**
- **Monotheistic**
- **Tribal**
- **Monistic**
- **Chinese-Asian**

Impact of Religion on Mission

4 of 5

Consider Common Elements in Religions

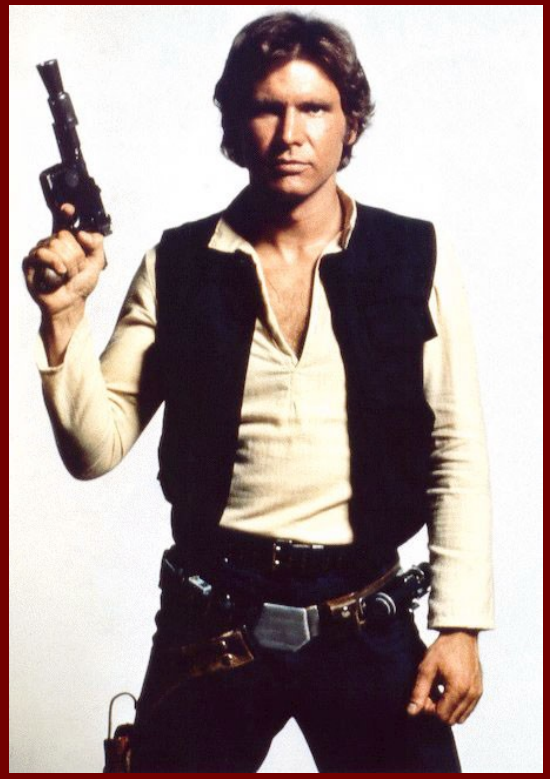
- Doctrine
- Stories
- Ethics
- Ritual
- Experience
- Social

Impact of Religion on Mission

5 of 5

Consider Five Levels of Impact

- Individual
- Social
- Economic
- Military
- Political



RIA Products

- RIA Fact Sheet
- RIA Briefings
- RIA Cultural Impact Card
- RIA Training Classes
- Samples

RIA Products

- RIA Fact Sheet
- RIA Briefings
- RIA Cultural Impact Card
- RIA Training Classes
- Samples

Remember

- Evaluate as you collect
- Ask the key question
  "So What?"
- Use discernment & analyze
- Consider your limitations
- Avoid using too much detail

Summary

- Evaluate the Impact of Indigenous Religion on the Mission
  - Stay in Your Lane
  - Ask, “So What?”
  - Be Selective

Impact of Religious Practices

"To ignore a people's faith is to lose valuable insight into how they think, how they feel, and how they can be expected to act."

'Taking the ISLAM out of ISLAMIC FUNDAMENTALISM', U.S. Army War College Strategic Research Project. Chaplain (COL) Peter Christy

Questions

Break Time